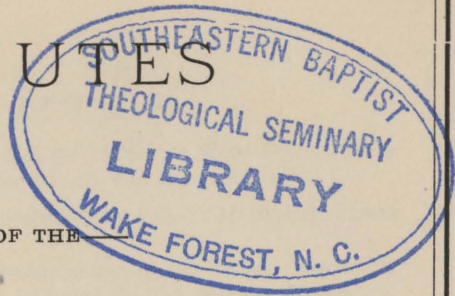


MINUTES



—OF THE

OCMULGEE ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH THE

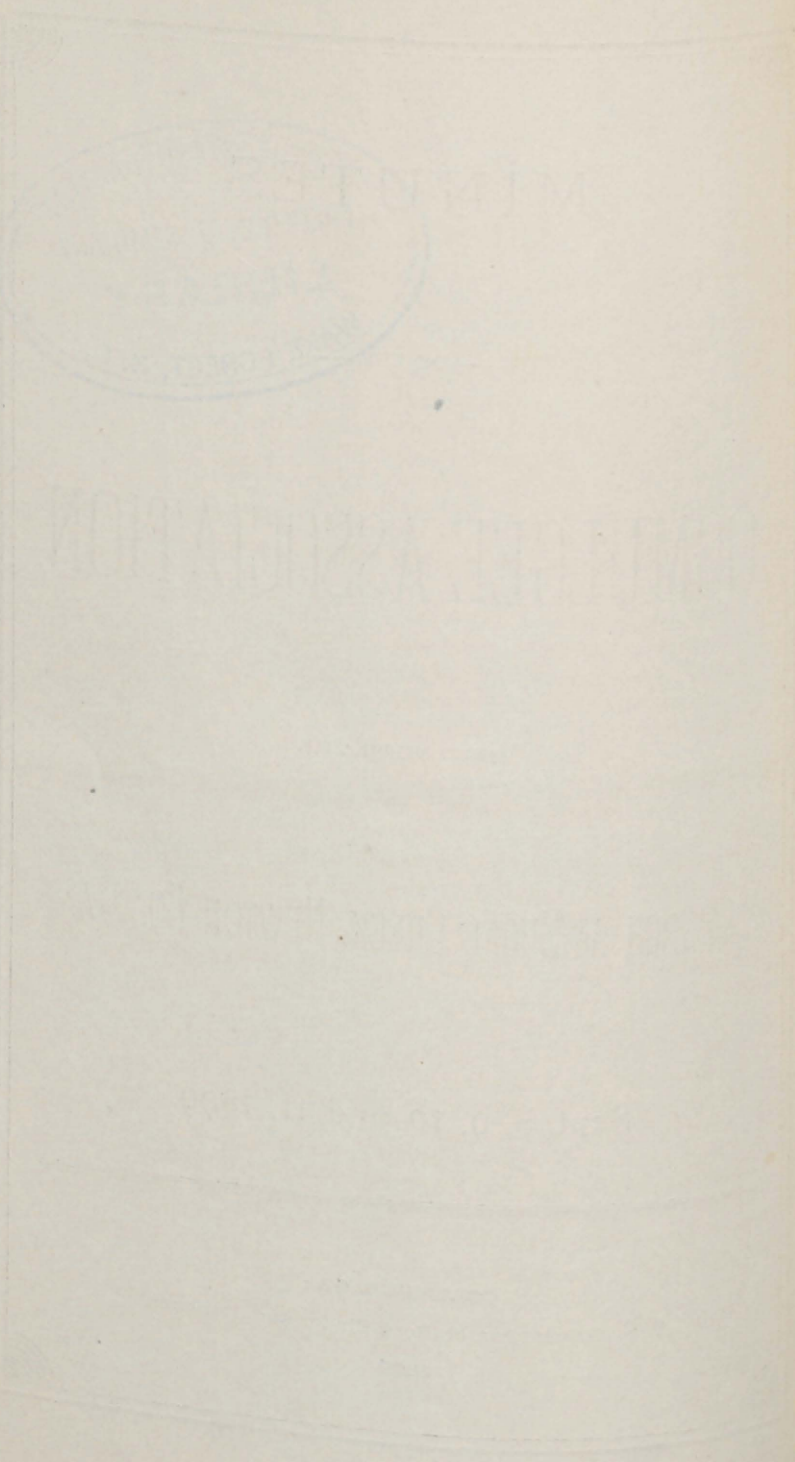
CHURCH AT SHOAL CREEK, NEWTON CO., GA.

Sept. 8, 9, 10 and 11, 1899.

COLUMBUS, GA.:

Thos. Gilbert, Printer, Book-Binder and Stationer,

1899.



MINUTES

Of the Ocmulgee Association, held with the Church at Shoal Creek, Newton County, Ga., September 8th, 9th and 10th, 1899.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. F. M. McLeroy from Acts xx. 28.

After one hour's respite the messengers met in the house. Preaching at the stand by Eld. W. W. West, followed by Eld. Morgan Brown.

The Association was opened with prayer by Eld. J. J. Manley.

Received letters from ten churches and minuted their state.

Elected Eld. D. L. HITCHCOCK Moderator and D. G. McCOWEN Clerk.

Appointed J. W. Newton to write the next Circular Letter.

Invited visiting and corresponding brethren to seats with us.

Read the Decorum.

Called for petitionary letters.

On motion, appointed the following committees:

On Preaching—Elds. J. H. Gresham and J. T. Glover, and Brethren J. W. Newton, B. F. Tyler, D. T. Mercer, with the Moderator and church delegation.

To Write the Corresponding Letter—Elds. J. H. Gresham and D. G. McCowen.

Called for correspondence from sister Associations, and received as follows:

Yellow River—Elds. J. F. Aldmon and W. W. West, and Brethren G. W. Webb, J. W. Sockwell, G. D. Heard, D. J. Adams, J. H. Adams, L. D. Adams, W. A. Adams, J. G. Malcom and R. K. Bennett.

Oconee—Elds. F. M. McLeroy, J. J. Manley and D. P. Smith, and Brethren J. G. Breedlove, J. M. Peters, W. J. Malcom, A. P. Malcom and G. E. Ivey, with a letter.

Primitive Ebenezer—Eld. J. F. Lord.

Primitive Western—

Marietta—Letter and minutes.

Delaware River and Warwick—Letter and minutes.

Kehukee—Letter and minutes.

The committee to arrange preaching reported that Eld. D. P. Smith would commence preaching to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock, followed by Eld. J. F. Aldmon. After one hour's intermission, Eld. J. F. Lord would preach, followed by Eld. W. W. West.

Appointed correspondence to sister Associations:

Yellow River—Eld. D. L. Hitchcock.

Oconee—Elds. J. D. Curtis, D. L. Hitchcock and Bro. J. H. Hitchcock.

Primitive Ebenezer—Elds. J. H. Gresham, J. T. Glover and Bro. J. H. Meeks.

Primitive Western—Letter and minutes.

Marietta—Letter and minutes.

Delaware River and Warwick—Letter and minutes.

Kehukee—Letter and minutes.

The Association then adjourned to 8:30 o'clock to-morrow morning.
Prayer by Eld. J. F. Lord.

SATURDAY MORNING.

8:30 o'clock—The Association met again. Prayer by Eld. D. P. Smith.

Called for further correspondence and received Elds. J. F. Moss, S. H. Watley, and Bros. G. M. Breedlove, A. Whiteker, H. C. White, from the Yellow River, and Eld. Morgan Brown as a visitor.

Called for Circular Letter prepared by Eld. J. D. Curtis, which was read, received and adopted.

Appointed general meetings:

First District—Enon, Putnam county, to commence on Friday before the fifth Sunday in July, 1900.

Second District—Smyrna, Monroe county, to commence on Friday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1900.

Called for, read and adopted the Corresponding Letter.

Called for Miscellaneous Business.

Agreed that as the Church at New Salem had been dissolved, that the name be dropped from the minutes.

Resolved, That this Association feel to return thanks to God, and to the brethren, sisters and friends, in this vicinity, for the kindness we have received during our meeting.

The next session of our body is appointed to be held with the Church at Mt. Zion, Jones county, Ga., three miles east of Gray's Station, on the Macon and Northern Railroad, and four miles west of Haddock's Station on the Macon and Augusta Railroad, to commence on Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1900, where we hope to meet again.

Agreed that the Clerk have 600 copies of these minutes printed and distributed among the churches, and that he receive for his services the balance of the money after paying for the above number.

Called for contributions, and distributed corresponding minutes.

Prayer by Eld. S. H. Watley.

Adjourned.

D. L. HITCHCOCK, *Moderator*.

D. G. McCOWEN, *Clerk*.

SATURDAY MORNING, 10 o'clock—The brethren appointed came forward and preached to the comfort and instruction of the people of God.

SUNDAY MORNING—Met again. Preaching by Eld. S. H. Watley, followed by Eld. D. L. Hitchcock. In the afternoon, preaching by Eld. Morgan Brown.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES	COUNTIES	MESSENGERS' NAMES.	Baptized	Rec'd by Letter	Dis'm'd by Letter	Excluded	Restored	Dead	Total	Associational Fund	Meeting Days
Eanon	Putnam.....	Eld. D. L. Hitchcock, J. H. Meeks...	...	1	...	...	...	...	22	\$ 2 00	4
Crooked Creek.....	Putnam.....	.....Joe Hudson, T. J. Clements.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 33	1 00	4
Shoal Creek.....	Newton .....	.....J. H. Hitchcock, J. W. Low.....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1 42	2 00	4
County Line.....	Jones.....	.....Eld. J. T. Glover, G. W. Marsh.....	2	...	...	...	...	...	34	2 00	1
New Hope.....	Jones.....	Eld. J. H. Gresham, T. J. Bazemore	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 36	2 00	4
Mt. Zion.....	Jones.....	.....D. T. Mercer, G. F. Souther.....	1	2	...	...	...	...	1 24	1 50	3
Ephesus.....	Monroe.....	.....G. A. Zellner.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 20	2 00	2
Smyrna.....	Monroe.....	Eld. D. G. McCowen, J. W. Newton	1	...	...	...	...	...	3 51	2 00	4
Fellowship.....	Jasper.....	.....B. F. Tyler, W. L. Lane.....	...	1	...	...	...	...	17	50	3
Mt. Pleasant.....	Jones.....	.....J. M. Tiner, J. M. Comer.....	5	...	...	...	...	...	20	1 00	2

MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

D. L. HITCHCOCK, Standfordville, Putnam county, Ga.

D. G. McCOWEN, Forsyth, Monroe county, Ga.

J. H. GRESHAM, Pippin, Jones county, Ga.

J. T. GLOVER. Five Points, Jones county, Ga.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Ocmulgee Association in session with the Church at Shoal Creek, Newton County, Ga., September 8th, 9th and 10th, 1899, to her Sister Associations with whom she Corresponds, sends Greeting:

DEAR BRETHREN—According to the will and pleasure of our God, it has been our privilege to hold another lovely session of our body. Our coming together was one of love, peace and harmony, for which we desire to praise His great name. Our meeting has been well attended, the churches all represented; and many of your ministers and messengers it has been our pleasure to meet again, with assurances of continued love and fellowship. The churches all report love and peace. May God be praised. The preaching has been edifying and comforting to the children of God. We were made to rejoice at the coming of your messengers, and earnestly desire a continuance of your lovely correspondence. May the God of all grace lead us all in the way of truth, and to His name be the praise.

The next session of our body is appointed to be held with the Church at Mt. Zion, Jones county, Ga., four miles west of Haddock Station on the Macon and Augusta Railroad, and three miles east of Gray's, on the Macon and Northern, commencing Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1900.

D. G. McCOWEN, *Clerk.*

D. L. HITCHCOCK, *Moderator.*

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Ocmulgee Association, in its Annual Session 1899, to the Churches composing the same. Grace be unto you and peace be multiplied:

DEAR BRETHREN AND SISTERS IN THE LORD—The time for the annual meeting of our body has again rolled around, and, according to custom, it will be expected that we address you by way of Circular Letter; therefore, we refer you to Heb. x. 24th and 25th verses: "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another."

From the above declaration of Scripture we are led to the conclusion that the assembling together of God's dear children, whether it be monthly or annually, has for its real object the mutual comfort and edification of God's dear children while journeying onward to their eternal home.

While thus assembled, and His servants are enabled to proclaim the Gospel, it will surely stir us up by putting us in remembrance of the gracious dealings of the Lord with us. The Savior said to His disciples: "But the comforter whom the Father will send in my name, He shall

teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance." Now it is an evident fact that no person can remember what they never knew.

How important that all lovers of Gospel truth, so far as God may enable them, should be instant in season, out of season, reprove rebuke, exhort, yea, provoke unto love and to good works. The word provoke is used in the sense of calling forth, stimulating to action, to arouse.

Divine Grace in taking the sublime way of salvation by Jesus Christ according to the foreknowledge of God, the Father, not only includes practical Godliness in the letter, but also in the power of its spirit. It not only teaches that man must have a new heart before he can do good works, but also gives the new heart with which to perform them. When spiritual life is given we manifest the sign of spiritual life. We breathe, cry, mourn, hunger and thirst spiritually. When repentance is given we bring forth fruits meet for repentance. When faith is given we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ; and when we are kept by the power of God we persevere, and those who are created in Christ Jesus unto good works want to perform them. Good works are not the cause of salvation, they are only the result of it. Salvation causes them, they do not cause it. The law says do this and live, but the Gospel says live and do this. Works only prove that the faith we have is a saving faith, but the chief sign, however, is not in the doing of the good works, but rather in the manner and the object for which they are done. To illustrate: The Pharisee does his to be seen of men, the hypocrite that he may boast of them, the Armenian because he thinks there is merit in them, but the humble child of God does his because he loves God. Hence the humble child of God alone is free from Pharisaical pride, hypocritical guile or Armenian blindness, and can truly say, with Paul, "By the grace of God I am what I am."

In the Church there are many members in one body, and all have not the same office. Hence, we have particular direction how we should act relatively toward each other. Also, gifts differing, according to the grace given to us. How necessary we should learn our place in the Church, and act our part well—as an eye, hand or foot. There are special duties to special characters: First, the minister or elder—he should be an example to the flock; a teacher of sound doctrine; he must contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the Saints; he must feed the lambs, feed the sheep, comfort the people of God—in a word, watch over the spiritual interests of his flock. Secondly, there is the deacon—he should be a holy man, as his duty is to look after the temporal welfare of the Church. His character should be examined into as described by the Apostle: (See I. Timothy, 3d chapter, 8th and 9th verses.) Christ says, if ye love me keep my commandments. The test of love, then, is obedience. Those who love God love those who are born of God. There is a woe pronounced against those that are at ease in Zion—no rest, no ease, no truce, for the Christian on earth. The world is his battlefield; the conflict is with foes within and ene-

mies without. But let us be encouraged, knowing that the lord of hosts is with us; that the God of Jacob is our refuge. Our life abounds with contrarities—of life, and death, of faith and unbelief; of joy and sorrow; of obedience and disobedience; of hope and fear.

There is no way of escape from these conflicts in this life. But the believer is not under the law, but under grace. Great are the mysteries of grace. Who can relate them? Heaven and eternity can only declare them. The way of truth and grace is most assuredly not of this world. The sign of its presence among the people of God is practical Godliness. It dwells with the doers of the Word—with those who adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things; who put off the old man who is corrupt and put on the new man who walks blameless in all the ordinances and commandments of the Lord, observing the precepts, listening to the exhortations, heeding the admonitions, entertaining the threatenings, and living in all good conscience with God and man.

Now, in conclusion, dear brethren, while thus assembled as an Association, may we be enabled to encourage each other pertaining to our walk in this life as followers of the meek and lowly Lamb of God, endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace—strive for the things that make for peace; and, in the language of Peter, “Beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware, lest ye also being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.” But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to Him be glory, both now and forever. Amen!

D. L. HITCHCOCK, *Moderator.*

D. G. McCOWEN, *Clerk.*